



Committee on Legislative Matters and the Northampton City Council

Members

Councilor William H. Dwight, Chair

Councilor Maureen Carney

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor David A. Murphy

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 11, 2018, Time: 5 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call:** At 5:10 p.m., Councilor Alisa F. Klein called the meeting to order. On a roll call, the following councilors were present: Councilor Carney, Councilor Klein and Councilor Murphy. Councilor Dwight was absent.
2. **Announcement of Audio and Video Recording**
Councilor Klein announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded for broadcast by Northampton Community Television.
3. **Public Comment:**
As no members of the public were present, there was no public comment.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Councilor Murphy moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2018. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion carried 3:0.

Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2018. Councilor Murphy seconded.

Councilor Klein made a couple of corrections. She noted that attribution of the motion to approve the minutes in agenda item #3 was incorrect since it couldn't have been Councilor Bidwell. It was Councilor Carney, she said. On page 7, she noted that certain comments appeared to be attributed to Arts Council Director Brian Foote when in actuality the comments were made by her when recounting a conversation with Mr. Foote. Mrs. Krutzler said she would make the changes as requested. **The motion to approve carried 3:0.**

5. **Public hearing on proposed zoning change**
A. **18.096 Road Takings Ordinance - Referred to Planning Board and Legislative Matters, 5/3/2018**

Councilor Klein noted that the legal notice was published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on May 28, 2018 and June 4, 2018 as per M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 5.

Councilor Klein read the text of the ordinance as amended by the Planning Board. **Councilor Murphy moved to open the public hearing. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed 3:0.**

The proposed ordinance would go into a section of the code where there are some allowances for changes in lot size under certain circumstances, Senior Planner Carolyn Misch explained. The idea is that when a city or state has to come in and take a portion of a lot, there is no provision for the lot to remain buildable after the taking. The Commonwealth might take a strip of property and it might render the rest of the land unusable. This would address that situation. It doesn't come up frequently but there are cases where takings for roadway improvements make the remaining land nonconforming. As a recent example, a resident of Marshall Street came in for a variance to make a lot that was rendered nonconforming years ago when Interstate 91 was constructed buildable. There are some limitations; i.e. – a minimum lot size must be maintained.

If the Commonwealth takes so much land that the remaining parcel doesn't even meet minimum standards, the state should pay for the value of the lot, she noted.

The Planning Board made a positive recommendation with three textual changes. She reviewed the recommended changes.

There being no public comment, **Councilor Murphy moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed 3:0.**

Councilor Carney moved to forward the ordinance to the city council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion carried 3:0.

6. Items Referred to Committee

A. 18.097 A Resolution to Lower the Voting Age for Northampton Municipal Elections - Referred by City Council, 5/3/2018

Councilor Carney moved to forward the resolution with a positive recommendation. Councilor Murphy seconded.

Members noted that it was referred to committee per request of Councilor Dwight for further discussion of possible amendments. **Councilor Murphy moved to continue the item to the next committee meeting so Councilor Dwight could be present. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion carried 3:0.**

Councilor Dwight could possibly bring members of the Youth Commission to speak to it as well, they said.

5. New Business

None.

6. Adjourn

Councilor Klein moved to adjourn. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed 3:0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Prepared By:
L. Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
413.587.1210; lkutzler@northamptonma.gov